THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) A delegation of the Association of Electronics Industry of Israel visited India recently. Members of the delegation had discussions with Indian Industrialists regarding possible joint-venture. But no joint venture has yet been finalised.

(c) No agreement was signed by the Government in this regard.

ILLEGAL HIVING OFF OF STONES SHINGLES AND SAND FROM THE MAGHALAYAN BORDER BY BANGLADESH

2343. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after Bangladesh undertook large and wide road construction, huge quantities of stonse, shingles and sand are being illegally hived off from the Meghalayan border;

(b) whether an assessment of the national wealth thus lost has been made; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to control and legalise the outflow ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No such incidents of illegal hiving off of stones, shingles, and sand by Bangladesh on Meghalaya Border have been reported.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Field formations remain vigilant against smuggling, including illegal export of stones, shingles and sand. Close coordination is being maintained among all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF BASAMATI RICE

2344. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the quantity of Basmati rice that is produced in India per year;

(b) what percent of total production is exported; and

(c) what is the country's share in this commodity in World Trade and what is the export price per quintal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Under the present forecasting system, the production of rice is not calculated separately for different varieties. However, it is tentatively estimated that basmati production is around 6 to 7 lakh MTs, and less then 50 per cent of this is exported.

(c) During 1991-92, India's share in world exports of basmati rice and unit value realisation was 32.32 per cent and US $ 759.77 per MT respectively.

EXPORT PROMOTION INDUSTRIAL PARKS

2345. SHRI B. K. HARI PRASAD : Will the Minster of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently announced a scheme for setting up Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) in all the States ;

(b) whether Government have received any such proposals from the State Government of Karnataka ;

(c) whether Government are aware that fully developed infrastructural facilities

already exists there in Whitefield near Bangalore and at Jiganin requiring minimum gestation period for the project to be in operation ; and

(d) with the surge in industrial activity expected alongwith the commissioning on Konkan rail link along Karnataka coast, whether Government would consider setting up another EPIP in Mangalore which is endowed with a major port and has registered rapid industrial growth in recent times ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The Government has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing financial assistance to State Governments for the establishment of Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP).

(b) Although the Government of Karnataka has indicated its interest in setting up EPIPs initially at Bangalore and subsequently at Mangalore, no project proposal has been received in this regard.

(c) While the Government of Karnataka had indicated that it had taken up development of an export-oriented industrial Zone at Whitefield in the context of is proposal of setting up of an Export Processing Zone there, it has not intimated about facilities being developed at Jiganin.

(d) It is proposed, in the first instance, to promote one EPIP in each State.

EXPORT FACILITIES SOUGHT BY NEPAL

2346. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Nepalese business delegation has sought facilities at Bombay Port for export of its products to other countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government has since decided to extend port facilities for exports to Nepal ;

(c) under what terms and conditions such facilities have been extended ;

(d) whether such a step of the Government would not create hurdle in the export of Indian goods ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

MINIMUM EXPORT PRICE FOR TOBACCO

2347. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA :
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to revive the minimum export price for Tobacco so that the farmers could get a reasonable price for their products; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Minimum-Export Price (MEP) for FCV tobacco has been abolished as a measure of trade liberalisation in the long term interests of the tobacco trade. It has been decided not to re-introduce MEP for tobacco, particularly in the current scenario of over supply in the international market.